

Appl. No. 09/937,538
Response Dated September 1, 2004 to
Final Office Action of June 2, 2004

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 81839.0102
Customer No. 26021

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 were pending in the Application. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 3 are being amended and Claims 2, 8 and 14 are being cancelled. No new matter is involved.

In the Final Office Action of June 2, 2004 claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 409015174. Claims 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 409015174 in view of U.S. Patent 6,444,010 of Watanabe. On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-6 and 8-18 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Statements are made as to the reasons that claims 2 and 4 are allowable.

In response, Applicant is adding the limitations of claim 2 to claim 1, with claim 2 being cancelled in view thereof. Therefore, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claim 3 is being amended to depend from claim 1, in view of the cancellation of claim 2, so that claim 3 should also be allowable.

Claims 4-7 depend, directly or indirectly, from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1, so that such claims should also now be allowable.

Claim 8 is being cancelled because it is redundant in view of claim 7. Similarly, claim 14 is being cancelled as redundant in view of claim 13.

Claims 9-13 and 15-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1, so that such claims should also now be allowable.

In conclusion, claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-18 should now be allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, entry of the amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the Application in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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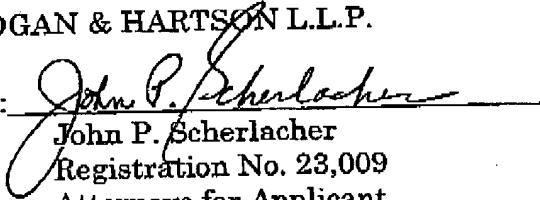
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Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 1, 2004

By: 
John P. Scherlacher
Registration No. 23,009
Attorneys for Applicant

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701